

Eileen Beal
3745 Woodridge Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121-1860
Tel/Fax: 216-381-5028

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To: Secretary Dan Glickman
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave.
Washington DC 20250

Sir,

To quote Ms. Lori Ann Thrupp, Director of Sustainable Agriculture as the World Resources Institute:

"The development of the terminator technology is completely against human rights to livelihood, and it can result in virtual genocide for thousands (if not millions) of people.... The terminator technology is a recipe for exacerbating and greatly increasing the problem of world hunger."

The United States Government is messing with the future of the people of this planet when it supports agricultural technology and scientific research that produces plants that produce seeds that will not reproduce. And that is exactly what the genetic engineering now supported by the US government, the governments of 87 other countries, and the agro-industry is doing.

Organizations of small farmers around the world are challenging the morality of Terminator Technology, which they fear may terminate them. It's not that they cannot afford to purchase seeds every growing season so they save seeds from the previous harvest, it's also that they understand the importance of a free and open "breeding" system in the plant world to improve plant viability and quality. And they also understand that if Terminator Technology takes hold on the planet eventually all farmers will be forced—by seed companies, national governments and banks that only offer credit to those farmers who agree to plant "tested" and "approved" seed varieties—to use Terminator Technology (i.e. genetically altered and engineered) seeds.

Please do all you can to stop the forward US Government support for and the forward movement of research in Terminator Technology for the following reasons:

- (1) The potential risk that seed sterilization may spread to surrounding crops through pollen. Scientists warn that under certain conditions the trait for seed sterility will be carried by pollen to surrounding plants, both wild and cultivated, causing inadvertent sterilization.
- (2) The possibility that sterilized seeds might be sold or exchanged for planting.
- (3) The importance of farm-saved seed, particularly to resource-poor farmers.
- (4) The probable negative impact on genetic diversity throughout the world. If farmers are forced or persuaded to use Terminator Seeds, centuries of crop genetic diversity developed by the world's small farmers could be lost forever.
- (5) The importance of farmer selection and breeding for sustainable agriculture.

Also, please do all you can to get the United States Government to join the international organizations that working together to get the FAO to condemn Terminator Technology.

Respectfully,

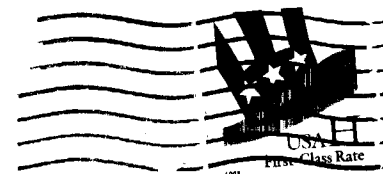

Eileen Beal

CC: Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy
CC: Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305), FDA, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20852

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Eileen Beal
3745 Woodridge Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121
TEL/FAX (216) 381-5028



DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA 305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 FISHERS LANE RM 1061
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

20857/0001

